

CONFIDENTIAL

29 January 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

At the request of Mr. Russell Blandford, of the staff of the House Armed Services Committee, I talked with him on 26 January regarding our proposed printing establishment.

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The Joint Congressional Committee on Printing had complained to Chairman Vinson of the Armed Services Committee that we were abusing our authority in setting up the [redacted] plant and had not cleared the project with the Joint Committee as required. I briefed Mr. Blandford on our long efforts to consolidate our printing and reproduction facilities, indicating that insofar as the printing establishment was concerned it would be necessary to have the concurrence of the Public Printer. After that concurrence had been received and the agreements reached, it was the duty of the Public Printer to clear the matter with the Joint Committee.

I also pointed out to Mr. Blandford the tremendous monetary saving involved in the new plant over present unsatisfactory conditions. Mr. Blandford subsequently told me that he had talked with Mr. Beach, of the staff of the Joint Committee on Printing, and that Mr. Beach had indicated the Committee was greatly disturbed. Mr. Beach told Mr. Blandford that the Bureau of the Budget had tried to stop our project but had been unsuccessful. He branded our figure of large savings as "a lie", as we had not included many pertinent figures in the costs by which we arrived at the savings. He further stated that Mr. Humelsine, of the Department of State was neither pro nor against the project. (I told Mr. Blandford that Mr. Humelsine had already signed the agreement.)

Finally, Mr. Beach told Mr. Blandford that the people involved here were just a bunch of empire builders.

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[redacted]
Walter L. Pforzheimer
Legislative Counsel

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